

***Seniors and veterans rely on mail for finances and communication; Rep. Israel calls for consideration of all alternatives before ending weekend mail delivery***

Huntington Station, NY – On Saturday, Rep. Steve Israel (D – Huntington) joined postal workers and leaders from the letter carriers, mail handlers and clerks to oppose ending Saturday mail delivery. Seniors, veterans and many others rely on the postal system for urgent deliveries. Recently, the United States Postmaster General proposed eliminating Saturday delivery to address issues with the Postal Service budget.



“Americans rely on a fully-functional postal system for regular deliveries of Social Security checks, veterans benefits payments, medications and communication from loved ones. Many small businesses don’t shut down on Saturday and our retailers and other small businesses depend on reliable postal service. Mail volume is down and we need to deal with that reality, but that doesn’t mean we should take the drastic step of depriving Americans of weekend mail delivery. I’m proud to be joined today by Long Island postal workers to oppose cutting Saturday delivery,” said Rep. Israel.

“Our postal workers have already suffered difficult job cuts. It’s becoming harder for us to continue to offer the service we believe Americans expect and deserve and further cuts will not only imperil our workers – but hurt seniors and others who rely on the Post Office for critical deliveries and communication. We’re grateful to be standing here today with Congressman Israel to oppose the end of Saturday delivery,” said Walton Barton, President of the Long Island Merged Branch 6000 – National Association of Letter Carriers.

Rep. Israel urged consideration of alternatives prior to cutting Saturday delivery, such as:

- Allowing the Postal Service to generate mail and revenue through advertising initiatives;
- Recalculating the formula for pre-funding retiree benefits;
- Expanding postal goods sales, which are currently restricted to a short list of items;
- Increasing prices for certain types of mail which are currently shipped below cost;

- Greening the Postal Service by updating the fuel-efficiency of the postal fleet, the largest civilian fleet in the world.

Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee.